## Message Text

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**ACTION SS-25** 

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9607

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 0473

**EXDIS** 

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMB HILL

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, OAS, AR, US

SUBJ: ARGENTINA AND THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING

REF: STATE 012402; BA 427

- 1. EMBOFF SAW PULIT AT NOON TODAY (JAN 21). LATTER SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSION OF MODALITIES BE PUT OFF UNTIL NEXT DAY SINCE FONMIN VIGNES HAD NOT YET HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON SUBJECT.
- 2. ASKED HOW HE SAW MFM SHAPING UP, PULIT REPLIED THAT WHILE REACTION TO TRADE BILL WAS A COMPLICATION, HE AND VIGNES ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT MFM WOULD BE HELD ON SCHEDULE AND WOULD BE A SUCCESS. GOA HAD NO PLANS TO POSTPONE. AMB ORFILA WAS SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC, HE NOTED, BUT ASCRIBED THIS TO ATMOSPHERE GENERATED BY LA AMBS IN WASHINGTON WHICH DID NOT NECESSARILY CORRESPOND TO FINAL DETERMINATION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS.
- 3. PULIT SAID HE AND VIGNES BELIEVED THAT WHILE MANY OF THE LA COUNTRIES WILL SHARPLY CRITICIZE USG DURING NEXT WEEK OR SO, ALL WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF VENEZUELA WILL COME AROUND TO AGREEING TO ATTEND MFM IN MARCH. VIGNES GAME PLAN IS TO LET ISSUE BE TALKED OUT THIS WEEK IN OAS AND THEN NEXT WEEK MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT WITH ECUADOR, PERU, VENEZUELA AND OTHERS SECRET

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AIMED AT PUTTING ISSUE IN PERSPECTIVE AND GETTING MFM FIRMLY

BACK ON TRACK. PULIT REMARKED THAT "UNFORTUNATELY JOH FORD MAY HAVE TO TAKE IT ON CHIN THIS WEEK". HE ADDED THAT IT IMPERATIVE US CONTINUE EFFORTS TO CLARIFY AND SHOW GOOD FAITH ON TRADE BILL AND THAT IT NOT LOSE PATIENCE. MOST OF THE LAS, HE CONCLUDED, WILL MAKE A GREAT NOISE AND THEN GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS AT HAND, INCLUDING THENEW DIALOGUE.

4. POLIT SAID HE AND VIGNES WERE INCREASINGLY AWARE THAT WHAT VENEZUEL BELIEVED SERVED ITS INTERESTS MIGH WELL DAMAGE THOSE OF ARGENTINA. ECUADOR AND OTHERS WOULD PROBABLY IN FINAL ANALYSIS AGREE TO ATTEND MARCH MFM SINCE IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO. VENEZUELA, ON THE OTHER HAND WAS FEELING ITS OATS AND OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO GRAB A LEADERSHIP POSIITON. IT MIGHT WELL SEE BUENOS AIRES MEETING AS WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES WITH THAT OBJECTIVE AND HENCE BE PERFECTLY WILLING TO SEE IT CANCELLED OR FAIL. ARGENTINA COULD NOT ALLOW ITS OWN POSITION TO BE DICTATED BY VENEZUELA'S. HENCE, IF VENEZUELA INSISTED ON HOLDING OUT AND NOT ATTENDING MFM, ARGENTINA WOULD LEAVE IT TO ONE SIDE AND CONCENTRATE HER EFFORTS ON THERS.

5. PULIT ADDED THAT WHILE HE AND VIGNES EXPECT OTHERS TO COME AROUND, THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY AN ELEMENT OF DOUBT. MFM COULD GO FORWARD WITHOUT VENEZUELA, BUT IF IT DEVELOPED THAT DESPITE ARGENTINAS EFFORTS THERE WERE THREE OR FOUR COUNTRIES WHICH INSISTED ON NONATTENDANCE, THEN THOUGHT WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO POSTPONEILJWMENT. "BUT IT HAS BY NO MEANS COME TO THAT YET," HE CONCLUDED. HILL

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